

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding grounds of objection and/or rejection are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the remarks that follow.

At the outset, applicant confirms the election to prosecute claims 1-9 of this application without traverse. In this regard, applicant has cancelled non-elected claims 10-15, reserving the right to file a divisional application to pursue those non-elected claims.

Applicant has amended the abstract to remove the legal phraseology noted by the Examiner. Further in this regard, applicant is providing a new substitute Abstract noting the Examiner's objection to inclusion of the number "9" at the beginning of the first line of the abstract. This number does not appear in applicant's file and perhaps was inadvertently added during the electronic filing procedure.

Additional informalities in the disclosure as noted by the Examiner in paragraph 8 of the Official Action have been corrected as suggested.

The objection to claim 9 has also been resolved by changing the dependency of that claim from claim 6 to claim 7.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Obrochta et al. (U.S. 4,283,835).

Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to require that the core comprise a solid, curved upper body portion and a pair of co-planar legs extending downwardly from the solid, curved upper body portion.

In Obrochta, the ceramic core 20 comprises a generally uniformly shaped, angled body with a relatively shallow slot 37 at one end thereof. Under no reasonable interpretation can the ceramic core of Obrochta be considered as including a solid, curved upper body portion and a pair of co-planar legs extending downwardly from the solid, curved upper body portion as now required by both independent claims 1 and 7. Even if the upper portion of the ceramic core is considered "curved" (the core, in fact, includes two planar portions intersecting at a curved portion along the entire length of the core), the portions of the ceramic core on either side of the slot 37 (which the Examiner regards as leg portions) are clearly not co-planar.

Dependent claims 2 and 5 have been amended for the sake of consistency with amended claim 1. Accordingly, the subject matter of amended claim 1, as well as the subject matter of dependent claims 2, 5 and 6 now clearly patentably defines over the applied reference. Note that since the dependency of claim 9 has been changed to claim 7, the anticipation rejection as to claim 9 has been rendered moot.

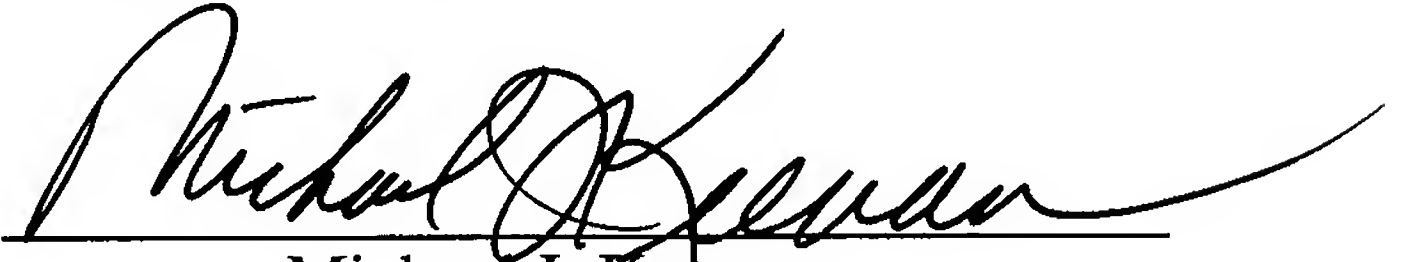
The Examiner has also rejected claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over Obrochta in view of either Willet et al. (EP 1 022 434 A2) or Lee (U.S. 6,234,753).

The secondary references are relied upon for teaching elliptically-shaped quartz rods and elliptically-shaped core tie holes. Neither reference, however, remedies the deficiencies of the primary reference to Obrochta as noted above in connection with the rejection of independent claim 1, noting further that independent claim 7 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 3, 4, 7, 8 (and 9 insofar as claim 9 now depends from claim 7) has also been overcome.

The application including claims 1-9, is now in condition for immediate allowance, and early passage to issue is requested. In the event, however, any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned so that the prosecution of this application can be expeditiously concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:   
Michael J. Keenan  
Reg. No. 32,106

MJK:ljb  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

PERIMETER-COOLED STAGE 1 BUCKET CORE STABILIZING DEVICE  
AND RELATED METHOD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A core for use in casting a gas turbine bucket, the core ~~comprising~~ includes a solid upper body portion and a pair of legs extending downwardly from the solid upper body portion~~[[,]]~~. The ~~the~~ pair of legs is separated by an elongated slot, and a pair of pegs projecting axially from opposite sides of the upper body portion, above the elongated slot but spaced from an upper edge of the upper body portion.